

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

48 Princes Highway (PO Box 14) Unanderra NSW 2526



**Parish Priest:** Mgr Graham Schmitzer

**Polish Chaplain:** Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
Mobile: 0410 225 975  
Email: slowinski54@gmail.com

**Parish Assistant & Catechist Co-ordinator:** Sister Joan Goodwin  
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Mobile: 0499 970 074  
Email: joan.goodwin@sosj.org.au

**Parish School:** St Pius X School  
Cnr Hargreaves & Cummins Streets  
PO Box 358 Unanderra NSW 2526  
Phone: 4271 3550 | Fax: 4272 2954

**School Principal:** Mr Philip Moore

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Sue Briscoe

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9am—3.30pm  
Phone: 4271 1068 | Fax: 4271 1298  
Email: unanderra@dow.org.au  
Parish Website: www.unanderraparish.org.au

## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday** 28 Jan *No Mass*

**Tuesday** 29 Jan Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm  
Mass: 5.30pm

**Wednesday** 30 Jan Mass: 7am

**Thursday** 31 Jan **St John Bosco**  
Adoration: 4.30pm-5.30pm  
(Reconciliation Available)  
Mass: 5.30pm

**Friday** 1 Feb First Friday  
Mass: 9.30am

**Saturday** 2 Feb **The Presentation of Our Lord**  
Candlemas Day  
Blessing of candles & Mass: 7.30am  
Reconciliation: 5pm-5.30pm  
Vigil Mass: 6pm

**Sunday** 3 Feb **4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**  
Masses: 7am, 9am, 10.45am (Polish Mass)

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR C 27 JANUARY 2019

**READINGS:** Neh 8:2-6,8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30;  
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

When the Jews returned home after the exile in Babylon, the nation had to be rebuilt. Ezra the scribe had brought with him from Babylon a copy of the Book of the Law of Moses which he solemnly read to the people. Then he called upon them to rededicate themselves to God (**FIRST READING**).



At the beginning of His public life, Jesus reads from the book of Isaiah, making the passage His own, and thus announcing a programme for His ministry (**GOSPEL**).

St Paul uses the example of the human body, made up of many parts, to describe the Church. With different gifts, used for the good of the whole Church, we form a unity in Christ.

## WELCOME FR JERZY!

Welcome to Fr Jerzy Slowinski  
our new Polish Chaplain!



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Anniversaries

Reginald MASTERSON

Edward & Mary SCALLY

Joyce MONAGHAN

Bishop Cosma Shi ENXIANG

Sandrino BONCOMPAGNI



## ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

February	Church Washing	Barbara Farraway	
Sat 2 Feb	Church Cleaning	F Fernandez, B Rice, S Walsh	
	Lawns	Fernandez Family, M Walsh	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 2 Feb	A Carlotto	A Kelly	D Gelfius
Sun 3 Feb 7am Mass	L Burns	D Ferrer	S Brown
Sun 3 Feb 9am Mass	N Dwyer, C Carolan	M Rodwell	Davis Family
Counters	A Gunning, M Cauduro, C Garrett		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

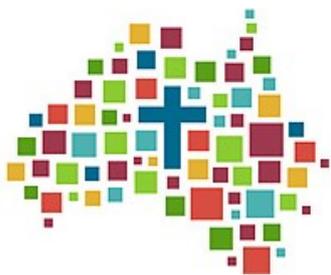


- Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month - 10.30am in St Joseph's room  
*New members always welcome!*  
Please contact: Barbara - 4271 1584
- St Vincent de Paul Conference:** Every Tue 7.30pm in St Joseph's room
- Parish Pastoral Council:** 2nd Monday of alternate months  
7.30pm in St Joseph's room
- Nursing Home Masses**
- Hillside Nursing Home:** 1st Tuesday of the month - 2pm
- Figtree Nursing Home:** 2nd Tuesday of the month - 10:45am
- Villa Maria Nursing Home:** 3rd Tuesday of the month - 9:30am

Refreshments after 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Thank you for all your written responses. The Plenary Council 2020 Response Box will be removed at the end of this week. Please place any written responses you may have in the box before Friday 1 February 2019. However, you may continue to make online suggestions until 6 March 2019.



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Mass to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Sick (Our Lady of Lourdes) will be on **Sat 9 Feb 2019 at 11am** with anointing of the sick — Mass will be followed by lunch.



# Gospel Reflection

"In our human foolishness and short-sightedness, we imagine divine grace to be finite, and for this reason we tremble.

But the moment comes when our eyes are opened and we see that grace is infinite.

Grace demands nothing from us but that we await it with confidence and acknowledge it with gratitude.

Grace makes no conditions and singles out none of us in particular.

Grace takes us to its bosom and proclaims a general amnesty."

(Isak Dinesen)



## PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The Unanderra Parish Youth Group, *Ascend*, is in its second phase of preparation and will be launched next month.

If you have any children or grandchildren in Secondary School, especially enrolled in Stage 4 or 5 and would like more information, please contact **Felicity Carolan** or **Bethany Parrish** or mobile **0415 926 132**.





**“There where you are  
you will find God.”**

*St Mary of the Cross — 1874*

## WARATAH AND WATTLE

Though poor and in trouble I wander alone,  
With a rebel cockade in my hat;  
Though friends may desert me, and kindred disown,  
My country will never do that!  
You may sing of the Shamrock, the Thistle, and Rose,  
Or the three in a bunch if you will;  
But I know of a country that gathered all those,  
And I love the great land where the Waratah grows,  
And the Wattle-bough blooms on the hill.

Australia! Australia! so fair to behold —  
While the blue sky is arching above;  
The stranger should never have need to be told,  
That the Wattle-bloom means that her heart is of gold,  
And the Waratah red blood of love.

Australia! Australia! most beautiful name,  
Most kindly and bountiful land;  
I would die every death that might save her from shame,  
If a black cloud should rise on the strand;  
But whatever the quarrel, whoever her foes,  
Let them come! Let them come when they will!  
Though the struggle be grim, 'tis Australia that knows,  
That her children shall fight while the Waratah grows,  
And the Wattle blooms out on the hill.



*Henry Lawson*



## THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

*The Journey Catholic Radio is currently on Summer Series. You can catch up on your favourite people such as Sr Hilda from the Abbey, Bruce Downes The Catholic Guy and many more. We will continue to play amazing contemporary music while our writers, contributors and presenters have a well-earned break.*

**Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au)**  
where you can listen any time and subscribe to weekly shows via email

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Senator Penny Wong is proposing an amendment to the Sex Discrimination Act when Parliament resumes on 11 February 2019.

It involves removing sexual discrimination against students. Documentation can be obtained on the Federal Government website at

**[www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)**

Last week's "Catholic Weekly" published a comment by Dr Greg Walsh, a Senior Lecturer at The University of Notre Dame, and a Conservatives candidate for the Legislative Council contesting the upcoming NSW election. He advises that anyone concerned about the proposed changes should contact their local MP and Senators in their state.

Dr Walsh considers the amendment unjust.

## CALLING ALL BUSINESS PEOPLE

Bishop Brian Mascord recently launched Catholic Business Connections (CBC) — an opportunity for business women and men in our diocese (active and retired) who share common values, to network and engage with leaders representing the diocese. CBC will gather three or four times a year for lunch and to listen to guest speakers chosen to inspire with their unique story.

The next gathering is on **Tuesday 19 February 2019** at Rydges Hotel, Campbelltown (12pm–2pm). Robert Fitzgerald AM will be speaking on Trust and Integrity — Touchstones for Success in Private and Public Life.

For more information on CBC and how to join, visit **[dow.sh/cbc](http://dow.sh/cbc)** — don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity.



**Catholic  
Business  
Connections**



**"I MEAN WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN  
OTHER THAN CRITICIZE THE PASTOR?"**

My dear people,

Over the last couple of months Fr Mark De Battista has been travelling the diocese promoting a series of concerts by the world-renowned pianist Eric Genuis. I wish to recommend to you this initiative which will take place in our diocese from 20 February to 20 March 2019.

Eric Genuis is from Simpsonville, Kentucky, USA, and will be touring the Diocese of Wollongong in conjunction with the Centenary Anniversary of St Patrick's Church, Port Kembla. He has visited our diocese before (2009) where he played seventeen concerts primarily in the Macarthur region.

This time he will be playing in parishes and high schools across the four regions of our diocese. Eric brings with him a world class violinist, cellist and soprano and together they perform his music.

In the USA, Eric has performed many concerts in maximum security prisons and in the last two years alone has performed in over forty-five prisons. He firmly believes in the Christian message "I was in prison and you visited me." (Matt 25,37). His impact is amazing! The wardens tell him that for days and weeks after one of his concerts the level of violence in the prison drops markedly.

Eric's concerts are unique because he provides his audience with the source of inspiration so that when the audience listens to each performance, they are drawn into a transforming experience. His music deals with themes such as mercy, faith, forgiveness, love, hope, relationships and so many other ordinary life experiences. Eric's concerts are for all who seek hope and purpose in their lives.

This concert tour is being co-ordinated by Fr De Battista and a faithful team of supporters. I am totally supportive of this project and have been so from its inception. I highly recommend it to you, too, especially in view of the positive and hopeful message it contains. Many parishes have already chosen to host a concert, but there are still some vacancies in the calendar.

This is a rare opportunity to bring a message of hope for our people. Once tickets sales have covered the cost of a concert (118 x \$30 Adult), any additional tickets sold will serve as a fundraiser for your parish.

Towards the end of last year Fr Mark was in discussion with the Office of the Commissioner for Corrective Services NSW to explore the possibility of Eric playing in some of the prisons of our diocese and in Sydney. In early December 2018, Mr Peter Severin gave his permission for Eric to play in the following prisons: Berrima, Nowra, Long Bay and John Morony, Berkshire Park (near Windsor) and Silverwater (women). There could be as many as thirteen concerts in the abovementioned prisons with some having booked the musicians for two days already! Fr Mark is also in conversation with Fr Chris Riley about doing the same for Youth Off The Streets.

This is a great evangelical outreach from our Diocese, and I encourage you to support it in whatever way is possible. ([www.ericgenuistour.com](http://www.ericgenuistour.com) — please see bulletin notice on this page).

I thank you in anticipation as we begin yet another year of pastoral outreach for the Lord in the Diocese of Wollongong.

Yours sincerely

*Brian Mascord*

**Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD  
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG**

## A VOCATION VIEW

Who shall come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith? We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the Vine and the Branches One again. How about you?



**Please contact Vocations Team  
at [priesthood@dow.org.au](mailto:priesthood@dow.org.au)**

## ERIC GENUIS — UNANDERRA

**Eric Genuis Concert  
Immaculate Conception  
Church Unanderra  
Wed 27 Feb 2019 - 7pm**



A rare opportunity to listen to a pianist of exceptional talent who brings with him a world class violinist, cellist and soprano playing in our parish church. The 'Opera House' is coming to our parish!

All original compositions together with powerful testimonies outlining the inspiration behind each piece with true stories of life transformations destined to make a deep impression upon all who hear them. A message of hope for all.

**Tickets: \$30 adult; \$25 pensioner/concession;  
\$70 family (parents with dependent children under 18).**

Ticket sales are available online at:

**[www.ericgenuistour.com](http://www.ericgenuistour.com)**

or from **Sue Briscoe** at the **Parish Office** (cash only)

A parish event not to be missed. *Your support will support our parish.*